

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16477

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJ: RIGHT-WING PLOT LEADERS TO BE TRIED

REF: ROME 15829 (12/13/74)

SUMMARY: ROME INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE HAS CONCLUDED LENGTHY INVESTIGATION OF RIGHT-WING PLOTS FROM LATE 1970 "BORGHESE COUP" ATTEMPT TO MID-1974 COUP RUMORS. JUDGE HAS ORDERED 78 PERSONS BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OR COMPLICITY IN SUBVERSIVE PLOTTING. MOST PROMINENT PERSON INVOLVED IS FORMER SID CHIEF GENERAL MICELI WHO IS TO BE TRIED FOR "COMPLICITY". A NUMBER OF OTHER PROMINENT PERSONS WERE CLEARED BY JUDGE, INCLUDING US CITIZEN PIERFRANCESCO TALENTI AND CONSERVATE POLITICIANS RANDOLFO PACCIARDI AND EDGARDO SOGNO. END SUMMARY.

1. ROME INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE FIORE ON NOVEMBER 5 CONCLUDED LENGTHY INVESTIGATION OF RIGHT WING PLOTTING BEGINNING WITH DECEMBER 1970 "COUP ATTEMPT" OF PRINCE BORGHESE AND INCLUDING SUBSEQUENT PLOTS INVOLVING THE "COMPASS ROSE" GROUP (ROME A-49 (1/24/74) AND COUP PLOTS IN 1973-74 (ROME 1267, 1/28/74; ROME 14858, 10/25/74). FIORE HAS NOW INCRIMINATED 78 OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER INVESTIGATION (10 IN JAIL, 26 BEING SOUGHT, THE REMAINDER FREE PENDING TRIAL).

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2. MOST PROMINENT FIGURE TO BE TRIED IS FORMER SID (NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) CHIEF GENERAL VITO MICELI, ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY IN BORGHESE PLOT BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO WARN POLICE IN TIME OF BORGHESE PLANS AND FOR HAVING MINIMIZED IMPORTANCE OF PLOT IN REPORTS TO HIS SUPERIORS. OTHERS INCRIMINATED INCLUDE TWO HIGH RANKING RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS, SEVERAL LOWER RANKING OFFICERS, AND ONE GENERAL (UGO RICCI) ON ACTIVE DUTY, DC EX-REGIONAL COUNCILLOR FOR LAZIO, FILIPPO DEJORIO, AND A NUMBER OF OLD GUARD FASCISTS AND YOUNGER RIGHT EXTREMISTS INCLUDING MSI PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY SANDRO SACCUCCI. CHARGES INCLUDE ARMED INSURRECTION, SUBVERSION, ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS AND SUBVERSIVE ASSOCIATION.

3. FIORE DETACHED FROM HIS REPORT INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF A NATO-SUPPORTED "PARALLEL ORGANIZATION" IN SID WHICH FAVORED THE PLOTTERS AND CONCERNING A FANTASTIC TALE OF THE BORGHESE PLOTTERS' UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO PLACE A TELEPHONE CALL TO PRESIDENT NIXON ON THE EVE OF THE COUP ATTEMPT. THESE INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, FIORE TERMED "IMPOSSIBLE", WILL BE PASSED BACK TO THE PROSECUTOR IN THE CASE FOR FURTHER STUDY AND DISPOSITION. THE EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO INFORMATION ON EITHER OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH APPARENTLY WERE GENERATED BY TESTIMONY OF ONE OR MORE OF THE BORGHESE GROUP.

4. AMONG THOSE CLEARED BY FIORE ARE US CITIZEN AND ROME RESIDENT PIERFRANCESCO TALENTI AND TWO PROMINENT CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS: EDGARDO SOGNO (LIBERAL PARTY) AND RANDOLFO PACCIARDI (LEADER OF NUOVA REPUBBLICA MOVEMENT). COPY OF LIST OF INDIVIDUALS INCRIMINATED AND THOSE CLEARED POUCHED EUR/WE NOVEMBER 12.

5. COMMENT: PRESS PLAY ON "BLACK PLOTTING" HAS FADED FOLLOWING JUNE 15 ELECTIONS AND FIORE DECISIONS GIVEN RATHER RESTRAINED COVERAGE, EVEN BY LEFTIST MEDIA. BEAUDRY

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